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COUNTRY: VENEZUELA/CUBA

DOI: 1 APRIL 1977

SUBJECT: REACTION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO CUBAN
GOVERNMENT CHARGES OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT CUBAN/VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

ACQ: VENEZUELA, CARACAS (5 AUGUST 1977) FIELD NO. [HVC] 7628(5)

SOURCE: A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN FROM A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
WITH GOOD ACCESS TO HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. HE
IS A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE.

1. (FIELD COMMENT: ON 31 MARCH 1977 THE GOVERNMENT OF
VENEZUELA (GOV) RECEIVED AN INFORMAL COMPLAINT FROM THE CUBAN
EMBASSY IN CARACAS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (USG)
IS ATTEMPTING TO DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND VENE-
ZUELAN GOVERNMENTS. THE CUBANS SAID THAT THE USG HAD DELIBERATELY
DIRECTED A FOREIGN NEWSMAN TO CONTACT CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS
IN AN EFFORT TO EXTRACT INFORMATION AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM
THEM WHICH COULD BE USED IN AN ARTICLE ON THE 6 OCTOBER 1976 BOMBING
OF A CUBANA AIRLINER AND THUS ATTEMPTING TO TIE THE GOV WITH
CUBAN EXILES. THE CASE WAS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS
ANDRES PEREZ ON 1 APRIL. FOR THIS INFORMATION, SEE [HVC] 7626, (5)
TDFIRDB-315/-77, FROM THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT.)

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE CUBAN CHARGES THAT THE USG IS ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT
VENEZUELAN/CUBAN RELATIONS. FURTHERMORE, PEREZ PLANS TO ASK
THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA FOR A FULL EXPLANATION
OF THE NEWSMAN'S CLAIMS, AS RELAYED TO PEREZ BY CUBAN EMBASSY

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